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CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION OF NORTH AMERICA: 1987

compiled by Sandra Lash Shoshani

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Table I. Summary of captive elephants in most North American zoos and private institutions (including some circuses), based on totals printed in Elephant, Volume 2, Number 2, page 123 (Fall 1986). Those were updated figures from the International Species Inventory System (ISIS) report of December 31, 1985.

	<u>U. S. Zoos</u>	<u>Canadian Zoos</u>	<u>Total</u>
African elephants	136 (18M, 118F)	13 (2M, 11F)	149 (20M, 129F)
Asian elephants	126 (19M, 107F)	8 (4M, 4F)	134 (23M, 111F)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	262 (37M, 225F) ^a	21 (6M, 15F) ^b	283 (43M, 240F) ^c

^a M = Male, F = Female

^b Six additional elephants held in Canada were reported by Toby E. Styles, as of February 1988 as follow: African 4 (1M, 3F), and Asian 2 (0M, 2F).

^c Of these 283, 8 Asian and 8 African were reported captive-born, since 1979.

Furthermore, lists of elephants held in circuses and by individuals have been compiled by the Species Survival Committee for the Asian Elephant (Alan Rost), William "Buckles" Woodcock, Bobby Gibbs, "Sabu" and Don Marcks (The Circus Report, April 1987). Raymond "Sabu" Moreau kindly provided a copy of his personal list of "Performing Elephants in North America" with up-to-date notes. This list gives 270 performing elephants (63 Africans, 207 Asians). Our count, including 270 from Sabu's copy and another 50 elephants held privately, total 320. Precise numbers are not possible because of the large and frequent numbers of African elephants which have been imported and some re-exported after training. (Note: at least 2 Asian elephants have been imported in the past year, under special arrangements made with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. These are included under the ISIS report.) In addition, there are approximately 80 more African elephants held by importers and private ranchers, bringing the total of elephants held in circuses, parks and private institutions to 400.

Table II. Summary of estimated numbers of elephants in North America, 1987.

Elephants held in captivity.....	283
Elephants held in Canada, in addition to ISIS.....	6
Elephants held in circuses, parks and private institutions....	400
	<hr/>
Total (as of February 1988):	689

The purpose of Table III (given on the following page) is threefold: to provide a chronological listing for purposes of analysis; to inform our readers of births and deaths of elephants so that elephant owners and others may contact each other for particular information or advice; and to include the names of elephants for the sake of not repeating elephant names. Record-keeping has been especially difficult because of the frequency of certain names and leasing of animals. It would benefit future breeding programs if owners would retain records of original names and refer to these when censuses are taken. Also, it is important for census takers to specify owners of animals and their ages in order to keep distinct entries.

Please note that this table was started with the first birth of a captive African elephant in 1978 since the first recorded birth of a captive Asian elephant in the USA was on April 3, 1880 (see Elephant, 1(4):237). The first part of the table appeared in Elephant, 2(1) in 1982 (pages 149-150) and was continued in Elephant, 2(2) in 1986 (pages 125-130).^{*} Some deaths prior to 1982 were not recorded in the previous publications and have therefore been included here, beginning with 1980.

We are greatly indebted to all institutions and owners who have sent us information to be included in this compilation. We also wish to acknowledge the following individuals who have provided us with data: Judy Berg, Richie Chiger, Joe Engelhard, Axel Gautier, Charlie Gray, Peter McLane, Chuck Pankow, Sonny Ridley, Sabu, Roman Schmitt, Thomas J. Smrt, Lucille Sweeney, Toby Styles, Roy Wells, Susan Wells, Randy Wolfe, and **The Circus Report**.

^{*} On page 126 of Volume 2, Number 2, we inadvertently indicated that the male African elephant "Sampson" belonged to the Los Angeles Zoo at the time of his death in 1986. In fact, he was purchased by Gary Jacobson and was successfully loaded on a truck and left the Zoo on March 31. The zoo was notified on April 6 of his death. Please note two other corrections; Roman Schmitt has informed us that "Vance", not "Hugo", is most probably the sire of two calves born at Circus World, on January 1, 1984 and February 3, 1984.

Summary to Table III: Since November 1, 1986, there have been 0 (zero) births of Africans and 7 (seven) births of Asians, of which 1 (one) has died. Total number of deaths since March 2, 1978, recorded in Elephant, 2(1):149-150; 2(2):125-130; and in this issue: 36 (thirty-six) Africans and 63 (sixty-three) Asians. Total number of births since March 2, 1978, recorded in Elephant: 19 (nineteen) Africans (6M, 11F, 2 stillborn - of these 19, 1 died shortly after birth) and 28 (twenty-eight) Asians (19M, 7F, 2 stillborn - of these 28, 3 died shortly after birth.)

(Table III on the following page.)

TABLE III. KNOWN BIRTHS AND DEATHS AMONG CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS IN NORTH AMERICA SINCE 1980¹**A. For the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*).**

Birth/ death	Date of birth/death	Sex ²	Name	Sire(age) /Dam(age) or age at death and cause ³	Institution at time ⁴
death	Summer 1980	F	unknown	12-14 months old; cause undeterminable	North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, NC
death	Summer 1980	F	unknown	12-14 months old; death undeterminable	North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, NC
death	1984 or 1985	F	Baby Star	3 or 4; cause unknown	Bruno Loyale, TX
death	January 1987	F	unknown	age and cause of death unknown	Liebel Family Circus, Barto, FL
death	December 14, 1987	M	Peter	27; cause unknown	Lion Country Safari, West Palm Beach, FL
death	February 15, 1988	M	Big Boy	18; euthanized due to arthritis	Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN

B. For the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*).

Birth/ death	Date of birth/death	Sex ²	Name	Sire(age) /Dam(age) or age at death and cause ³	Institution at time ⁴
death	January 17, 1986	F	Gina (Sheena)	? ; heart attack	African Lion Safari, (loan from Lowery Park Zoo, FL)
death	June 14, 1986	F	Gee Gee	? ; liver flukes?	Gee Gee Engesser, Gibsonton, FL
death	Fall 1986	M	Gardner	19; cause unknown	Rex Williams, Myakka City, FL
death	December 25, 1986	F	Jyothi	5; cause undetermined	Honolulu Zoo, Honolulu, HI
death	Winter 1987	F	Carmen	27; cause unknown	RBBBC, Washington, D.C.
death	Winter 1987	M	Sahib	? ; under anesthesia	"Bones" Craig, CA
death	Winter 1987	F	Kelly	? ; accidental electrocution	Allan C. Hill (Great American Circus), Sarasota, FL
death	January 12, 1987	F	Babar	13; volvulus of large colon	Hattiesburg, MS
birth	January 22, 1987	M	Bandula?	Vance(24)/Sid(24)	Roman Schmitt, Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL
death	February 27, 1987	F	Tooma	20; toxemia, secondary to intestinal torsion	Tulsa Zoo, Tulsa, OK
birth	April 2, 1987	M	Kalanan?	Vance(24)/Minyak(22)	Roman Schmitt, Tampa, FL
death	May 18, 1987	F	Targa	41; pancreatic tumor	RBBBC
birth	May 23, 1987	M	Chang Dee	Hugo(27)/Me-Tu(25)	Washington Park Zoo, Portland, OR
still-born	August 3, 1987	?	unnamed	anterior presentation	San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, CA
birth	November 9, 1987	M	?	Vance(24)/Joskey(Patna)(21)	Roman Schmitt, Tampa, FL
birth	December 31, 1987	M	Kiba	Thai(22)/Me-Thai(Abbie)(19)	Houston Zoo, Houston, TX
birth	January 17, 1988	M	?	Vance(24)/Mala?(21)	Roman Schmitt, Tampa, FL

¹ This list also includes elephants listed in ISIS census.² M = Male F = Female³ Age is given in years, unless stated otherwise.⁴ The two-letter abbreviations (e.g., NC = North Carolina) for states and districts are the same as used by the USA Postal Service. RBBBC = Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.